

Block I

Grant # 070032: Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council, Prevention, Education Program and Council Development

Applicant: Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council

Grant Category: SOG 2

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Purpose: This project results in the continued development and delivery of outreach fire and watershed protection documents, pamphlets and programs. The development of a mobile traveling program that can be used at homeowner's association meetings, community gatherings, school programs, and local festivals, to promote fire and watershed protection.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends authorization of this grant as proposed at the recommended funding level of \$10,000.

Letters of Support:

California Fire Safe Council Inc. Board of Directors

CEQA: The proposal is not defined as a project according to CEQA.

Project Summary from Grant Application:

The nearly 217,000 acres of public and private lands of this council's influence is bordered by, with some inclusion, the Sequoia National Forest, Giant Sequoia National Monument and Kings Canyon National Park of eastern Fresno County. We sit solidly within the Kings River Watershed to the north and Kaweah River Watershed to the southeast which offers an array of wildlife habitats, recreational activities as well as being a vacation destination for visitors from all over the world. Within these boundaries are private homes, ranches, schools, churches, youth camps, businesses and wildlife refuges. It has been 52 years since our last significant sized fire. If the 50 year wildfire rule were to be applied, we are overdue for "the big one" and our communities are anything but prepared.

From the Mono Indians who settled this land, to the longtime residents and ranchers, to the huge population growth of "Urbanites" moving out of the congested cities into subdivisions of our WUI, the need to implement community action is immediate and imperative as these Stakeholders have become dangerously complacent. Our nation's Christmas tree, the General Grant, is just a few short miles uphill from our foothill and mountain communities which makes fire prevention, education and fire safe practices even more paramount.

With the funding of this project, this council will be able to purchase the needed office supplies and equipment to reach our Stakeholders with flyers, brochures and information packets. The monies will also be utilized to develop and implement our community fire safe prevention/education programs by creating a power point presentation to be used at our monthly meetings as well as local events and organization meetings. Using these materials, we will also develop a children's education program for Dunlap School designed to reach our future Stakeholders. These programs will be ongoing, even beyond the 18 month completion date, and will be staffed by our Board of Directors and committees created for specific events and programs. Once the initial expense is funded, sustainability will be relatively inexpensive as materials need to be duplicated.

As the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". If we can mitigate even one fire by our prevention/education programs and community outreach, then all efforts are rewarded.